

Public Proposals Considered in the Planning Process

ROUTES

INCLUDED IN PROPOSED PLAN

PUBLIC PROPOSAL	EXPLANATION
Ensure unlicensed vehicular access from Black Canyon City on both sides of I-17, South of Rusty Rock Mine and on gas line east of 1-17 under Moore’s Gulch.	Plan does propose a new trail that parallels the ADOT road that runs through Moore’s Gulch.
Reevaluate proposed route closures that cross state land in light of the new OHV decal as some state-land trails may be appropriate for OHV use only.	Proposed plan includes limited connectivity with state lands where doing so would reduce additional disturbance of non-disturbed areas.
Maintain open the routes that connect to state land, thus allowing loops.	Some will remain open, some will not (such as the gas pipleline corridor). Loops will be made available
Maintain open the dead-end routes for cell phone access (thus improving safety) and to offer hilltop viewpoints. Monitor these places for route proliferation. Maintain open the dead-end route overlooking Gillette.	Proposed plan allows for one hilltop route and will include education/interpretation information to improve visitor experience.
Connect a loop in the south area to allow vehicle driving to be spread out and to improve trail riding. Make a loop route around the south end of the Table Mesa RMZ. Open routes to create loop trails.	Included in Proposed Plan. Plan emphasizes loop trails and new routes are proposed to complete loops.
Add additional hiking and biking trails for various skill levels.	Proposed plan includes a new system of stacked-loop trails for mountain/dirt bikes, hikers can use these trails. Additionally, plan includes new nature and equestrian trails.
Keep Old Stage Route open for access from Black Canyon City to “Collateral Damage” Rock Crawling area.	Proposed plan accommodates access to rock crawling area from a modified route.
Make a new route on the west side of the Gillette Property.	Added to plan – the new route will avoid private property access issue.
Maintain access to Lake Pleasant.	Table Mesa Road remains open. Maricopa County Parks is considering reopening the gate at the intersection of Table Mesa Road and Lake Pleasant Park. County controls access, BLM does not.
OHV and horse trails should be separate	BCT is open to horses, closed to OHVs. Additionally, the proposed plan includes one new Horse Trail. Additionally, new proposed

PUBLIC PROPOSAL	EXPLANATION
	mountain bike trails are open to equestrian uses but not motorized uses.
Need improved roads for cars	The plan proposal includes improvement of the three main roads within the planning area. These roads will be maintained for access by 2WD vehicles.

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Emphasize motorized use in this area with non-motorized emphasis in adjacent area.	The Black Canyon Trail is a nationally recognized non-motorized recreation trail and traverses the Table Mesa planning area. Additionally, according to Benefits Based Management, this area will be managed for both motorized and non-motorized use.
Maintain access to Tip Top Mine	The Tip Top mine is located out of the planning area. However, this plan is setting the stage for access in forthcoming planning efforts.
Reopen old mining roads, specifically in the southern area (Bonnie Bell Mine).	This area contains wildlife habitat, has access management issues, and also contains many abandoned mines, which pose a risk to public safety.
Allow motorized access from New River.	The southern end of Table Mesa is good wildlife habitat and is emphasized as a hunting area. Allowing access leads to illegal or unauthorized trail proliferation.
Evaluate and designate a sand run in the Agua Fria River.	Three specific areas along the river were evaluated for a sand run and were determined to contain significant riparian values. The Bradshaw Harquahala Resource Management Plan, of which Table Mesa is part, indicates that the riparian areas within the Agua Fria River corridor are not meeting land health standards. In order to bring these areas up to standard, no motorized use will be allowed in riparian areas.
Create a new route on BLM, parallel to the power line road and to allow loop route in south end of RMZ.	A loop route is included in the plan, however it was developed to bypass state lands.
Conduct separate NEPA (environmental) analysis for each proposed route change.	NEPA regulations allow the BLM to conduct programmatic/planning area analyses. We plan to do so for Table Mesa in order to save time.
Do not improve Table Mesa Road.	Road is maintained by County, not BLM.
Consider at least 100 miles of OHV routes.	The proposed plan includes approximately 71 miles of routes, enough to provide for at least 2 days of unique trail rides for users, while protecting resources.
Consider allowing route 17B/19K for day use only.	Route is located near an important spring water source for wildlife.
Add single track mountain bike trails in Doe	New mountain bike trails are proposed, but

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Peak area.	north of Table Mesa Road. Locating these trails north of Table Mesa Road allows for more access to more users.
Consider allowing route 16P/16N to be designated as open for single track use only.	Other proposed single-track routes are very close to this proposal and include a larger, more comprehensive single-track trail system.
Driving in washes should be allowed.	Some washes coincide with designated routes.
Add a long-distance motor cycle route from Table Mesa to Bumble Bee.	While Bumble Bee is outside of the Table Mesa Planning area, this plan proposal sets the stage for creating access in forthcoming planning efforts.
Consider separating trails by speed limit instead of use type.	Enforcing speed limits is difficult to do, given different modes of transportation, law enforcement access, and limited resources. This goal will be achieved by engineering – building barriers that bar entry of inappropriate vehicles .
Don’t limit us to existing trails.	BLM policy requires route designation.

TECHNICAL VEHICLE/ROCK CRAWLING	
INCLUDED IN PROPOSED PLAN	
PUBLIC PROPOSAL	EXPLANATION
Close the egress road near tortoise habitat and use the egress road that “Anaconda” Rock Crawling site uses (12I).	This is a popular rock crawling site and its maintenance is part of the proposed plan.
Need good, surface-hardened staging area to access rock crawling areas.	Surface-hardening for vehicle staging areas is included in the proposed plan.
Resurvey the “Collateral Damage” Rock Crawling site and provide access to it.	Included in proposed plan.
Keep the “Die Hard” rock crawling site open and regulate shooting if necessary.	This site is included in the plan proposal. The shooting area near it will be closed because of excess resource damage.

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Consider a northern access route (skirting private land) for “Collateral Damage” Rock Crawling site.	Area was surveyed and no technically feasible route could be determined – 20 foot drop to river.
Maintain as open all existing rock crawling routes.	Some existing rock crawling routes are located in important wildlife habitat and or cross unsecured private land
Open the “Armageddon” rock crawling site on a limited basis.	This site is adjacent to an important wildlife watering site.

TARGET SHOOTING

INCLUDED IN PROPOSED PLAN

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Consider access for disabled people in the shooting buffer proposal.	5 easily-accessible and 1 additional popular “drive-up” shooting areas remain open and are not in the shooting buffer.
If safe shooting areas are established, ensure that more than five or six are created to spread out the shooters.	Target shooting can occur anywhere outside of the buffer area as long as safe shooting practices are employed, which includes selecting an adequate back stop, not shooting across roads or depressions in landscape, and removal of all shooting-related trash.
Close area north of Table Mesa Road to shooting since most of the OHV activity and camping occurs north of the road.	The shooting closure buffers proposed in the plan effectively closes most of the area north of Table Mesa Road and South of the Agua Fria River.
Reevaluate the proposed closing of shooting site S-5 (maintain as open).	S-5 remains open and falls outside of the shooting closure buffers and has sufficient backstops.
Do not develop shooting sites or allow shooting to occur along the AZCO road.	Most of the AZCO Mine Road is Buffered from shooting. One portion of the road, which contains two very popular shooting sites, remains open and is not buffered because good backstops exist.
Do not identify safe shooting sites near private property that is planned for future residential development.	As a result of the buffers in the proposed plan, the majority of private property is buffered one-quarter mile from target shooting activities.
Reevaluate the safe shooting area philosophy, since dispersed shooting keeps each group safe from other groups of shooters who may use poor judgment.	The buffer concept allows recreational target shooters to shoot anywhere outside of the buffered zones (approximately 60 percent) of the planning area.

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Reconsider proposed closure of S22 and S29	These sites fall within 200 feet (60 meters) of each side of roads with heavy use, which are proposed to be buffered with closures to enhance safety. Additionally, these sites feature unsafe conditions.
Reconsider proposed shooting closures at sites within washes as some users feel that lead migration concerns are unfounded and wash banks provide safe backstops (This proposal also included water quality data from the City of Phoenix Water Plant.	Shooting is allowed anywhere outside of closure buffer as long as safe shooting practices are employed, which includes selecting an adequate back stop, not shooting across roads or depressions in the landscape.
Create mini ranges and require their use – the Doe Peak area would be good for this.	BLM Policy prevents us from designating shooting sites
Develop many smaller shooting areas instead of a few larger ones.	BLM Policy prevents us from designating shooting sites.
Retain shooting site S-29 as a shotgun range.	S-29 falls within the shooting closure buffer
Develop shooting sites.	BLM policy expressly prohibits the development of shooting sites
Do not close any of the RMZ to shooting.	Shooting buffer closures (about 40 percent of the planning area) are designed to improve safety and to enable all types of recreation in the area.
Ban shooting in entire Table Mesa Planning Area.	The BLM mission is to manage for multiple uses, including multiple recreation uses. The shooting closure buffer was designed to maximize safety and multiple recreation opportunities, including target shooting.
Create a Landing Zone for shooting	BLM policy expressly prohibits the development of shooting sites.

HUNTING

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Include game hunting access to riparian areas.	Hunting is allowed throughout the planning area. Motorized access/retrieval is restricted to within 100 feet of designated routes. Motorized access throughout the Agua Fria river is restricted.

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Consider adding game birds for better hunting.	Game stock falls under the purview if the Arizona Department of Game and Fish. BLM will support stocking of this area as long as it supports goals of meeting land health standards.

RIGHTS OF WAY & REALTY

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PUBLIC PROPOSAL	EXPLANATION
Pursue access across the Lake Pleasant Regional Park for long distance trails.	Access is managed by Maricopa County Parks and Recreation and is outside the scope of the Table Mesa Planning project. The proposal has been communicated to the County and the stage is being set for the next planning effort.
Pursue access across state and private lands to minimize the need for new routes to bypass these lands.	Access is being pursued in some cases, where possible.
Partner with AZOHVC to pursue legal access as necessary.	Working on an assistance agreement and grants with AZOHV for trail maintenance. Willing to work with any non-profit group committed to public lands.

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Add old roads on topographical maps into the system for later use.	The BLM Route Inventory serves as the baseline. Old roads may be old alignments or may no longer exist.
Purchase the “Gillette” propoerty and make it a camp/picnic area.	Land acquisition is not defined in the Resource Management Plan, to which the Table Mesa planning area must conform.
Require key access to the area from I-17	While adaptive management for recreation access will be utilized to ensure resource protection and public safety, restricting access to keyed entry points may restrict user community from taking advantage of the recreation area.

EDUCATION, OUTREACH, ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT

INCLUDED IN PROPOSED PLAN

PUBLIC PROPOSAL	EXPLANATION
Work with public volunteer groups to educate public and clean/improve the area.	Included in the Education and Outreach component of Recreation Plan. See the Friends of Table Mesa at: fotablemesarecarea.org
Unsafe shooting is better addressed through education and enforcement, change the philosophy to do this.	Included in the Education and Outreach component of Recreation Plan. See the Friends of Table Mesa at: fotablemesarecarea.org
Allow OHV groups to adopt/sponsor areas/sites for monitoring and care.	Included in the Education and Outreach component of Recreation Plan. See the Friends of Table Mesa at: fotablemesarecarea.org
Allow shooting site S-28 to be adopted by the Honeywell Sportsmen.	Included in the Education and Outreach component of Recreation Plan. See the Friends of Table Mesa at: fotablemesarecarea.org
Communications need improvement via local cell tower.	Consistent with the Resource Management Plan. Interested cellular companies may apply at any time.
Maintain kiosks with paper targets for users.	While BLM cannot provide paper targets, it will encourage citizen volunteer groups to do so.
Ensure safety on Black Canyon Trail.	Shooting buffer closure is designed to restrict shooting to a quarter mile on each side of the Black Canyon Trail. Signage and maps will be available for Black Canyon trail users.
Enforcement and regulation must become a priority -- More patrols by rangers.	Consistent with the Resource Management Plan. The proposal includes multi-jurisdictional law enforcement cooperation to manage the Table Mesa area.
Ensure enforcement of dumping/littering laws.	Consistent with the Resource Management Plan. The proposal includes multi-jurisdictional law enforcement cooperation to manage the Table Mesa area. This will enable additional ticketing for littering/dumping.
Name the 4X4 Trails on a map	Route numbers will be included on area maps. Common names can be included on maps created by volunteer groups

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Work with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Department of Public Safety to conduct sweeps of shooting users.	BATF and DPS are able to work with BLM for enforcement. BLM will work with any pertinent jurisdictional authorities to enforce the plan and educate public.
Adopt an enforcement plan. First offense leads to a ticket. Second offense leads to banishment from area.	Removal of use privileges is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, not BLM. Future disciplinary actions may include opportunities for offenders to complete responsible use training in lieu of fines/restricted use, or to conduct work and improvements in Table Mesa.
Allow hunting of nuisance Burros.	Burros are protected under The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195).
Consider a reasonably-priced permit	While a fee was initially considered, it will not be implemented at this time to maximize benefit to general public.
Consider a uniform access pass for recreation areas.	This idea has been represented in many forums but is outside the scope of this planning effort.
Consider trail use rotation.	The planning area is too small, and the use is too high for trail rotation to be effective.
Include water stations for recreationalists	Because of the back-country nature of the planning area, providing drinking water is outside of the scope of this planning effort.

FACILITIES

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Create more camping areas along the Agua Fria River.	One developed campground will be located adjacent to the Agua Fria River. Dispersed camping is allowed anywhere in the planning area.
Mark trailheads.	The proposed plan includes marked trailheads at two locations along the Black Canyon Trail, demarcation at all motorized trails, and maps located at kiosks.
Ensure sufficient signage to avoid getting lost.	This proposal is included in the proposed plan.
For Rock Crawling sites, create a gatekeeper or limiter device to restrict access by smaller vehicles..	Specific Rock Crawling site plans will include limiter devices. These plans will be developed in conjunction with Rock Crawling enthusiasts.
Include signage indicating where private lands occur.	Signage will be included. Additionally, the routes are designed to – in most cases – avoid private/state land that has not been secured with an easement.
Ensure training lot is located away from target shooting.	The OHV training area is a facility and will be buffered by a quarter mile from target shooting activities.
Signage with jurisdictional safety contact numbers	This information will be made available at area kiosks.

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Add a helipad to the Table Mesa planning area.	In the small planning area, recreational helicopter landing poses a safety risks. Safety officials can land a helicopter outside of landing pads.
Add an airstrip to Table Mesa planning area	In the small planning area, recreational flying could pose a public safety risk and a threat to wildlife such as desert tortoise. An airstrip is located near the Table Mesa recreation area, northwest of the Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
Create a gold panning area in Agua Fria River.	Casual panning is allowed wherever there is no existing mining claim. Most of the River, however, is already claimed.
Erect a bridge over the Agua Fria River to protect it.	River crossings will be improved by concrete aprons. Access over the river to the back country of the planning area will reduce protection efforts.
Add camp sites near shooting areas.	While the plan does not include camping facilities specifically for shooters, dispersed camping can occur anywhere in the planning area, as long as it vehicles remain within 100 feet from roads.